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JOHN ALBERT

MOSCOW, CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES

ANNCR:

OVER THE WEEKEND AN AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARY IN MOSCOW'S "PRAVDA" DEFENDED THE CUBAN ACTION IN ANGOLA AND ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF DAMAGING DETENTE BY WHAT IT CALLED A "HOSTILE CAMPAIGN OF THREATS" AGAINST THE CASTRO REGIME. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE:

THE ARGUMENTS BY THE SOVIET SPOKESMAN IN DEFENSE OF THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA ARE NOT NEW. THEY REST UPON AN OLD THEME OF A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT BEING SUPPORTED AGAINST AN EXTERNAL INVASION OF IMPERIALISTS AND RACISTS. IN DENYING THAT SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE CUBAN ACTION REPRESENTED EXPANSIONISM, THE COMMENTATOR DID NOT MENTION THAT THE ONLY MAJOR EXTERNAL FORCE INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS CONSISTED OF OVER 15,000 REGULAR CUBAN FORCES. THE SOVIET COMMENTATOR ALSO TURNED THE AMERICAN WARNING AROUND THAT THIS SOVIET ACTION HAS LED TO A DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

THE SOVIET ATTACK MISSES THE BASIC POINT. AS MUCH AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED WITH CUBA'S INTERVENTION IN ANOTHER CONTINENT, IT IS THE SOVIET UNION TO WHICH IT LOOKS AS THE POWER WHOSE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT HAS MADE CUBAN MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA POSSIBLE. BY TALKING ONLY ABOUT ALLEGED AMERICAN THREATS AGAINST CUBA AND POSSIBLE FUTURE AMERICAN THREATS AGAINST CUBA AND POSSIBLE AMERICAN ACTION, IF CUBA CONTINUES ON ITS PRESENT COURSE, THE SOVIET SPOKESMAN OVERLOOKS THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IN AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH AN

EXPANSIONIST POLICY POLICY BY MOSCOW MUST ENTAIL. AS SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS EMPHASIZED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE USE OF SURROGATE MILITARY FORCES IN AFRICA COULD ONLY TAKE PLACE WITH THE SUPPORT OF A SUPERPOWER, THE SOVIET UNION.

IT IS THE ACTION OF THE SOVIET UNION, THEREFORE, WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IRRESPONSIBLE AND INCONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD GOVERN THE CONDUCT BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. IN SHORT, WHAT WASHINGTON HAS BEEN STATING REPEATEDLY IS QUITE SIMPLY THAT THE SOVIET ACTION HAS, IN THE WORDS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, "INCREASED INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS ENORMOUSLY AND IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS AND A VERY DANGEROUS COURSE."

THE SOVIET SUPPORT FOR MILITARY ACTION IN AFRICA ALSO CONTRADICTS SOLEMN PLEDGES GIVEN ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AGAINST IMPOSING REVOLUTION ON ANY COUNTRY BY FORCE OR DIRECTLY INTERFERING IN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS. ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO IN DEFENDING THE SOVIET VIEW OF DETENTE ANOTHER SOVIET SPOKESMAN USED SPACE PROVIDED BY THE LONDON "ECONOMIST" TO REPEAT THESE SOVIET ASSURANCES. "COMMUNISTS, MARXISTS-LENINISTS," HE WROTE, "ARE FIRMLY AGAINST IMPOSING REVOLUTION UPON ANYONE, AND ARE AGAINST FORCIBLY SPREADING REVOLUTION BY MEANS OF WAR BOTH BECAUSE WARS BRING GREAT SUFFERING TO THE MASS OF THE PEOPLE AND BECAUSE REVOLUTION IS A CHANGE ROOTED IN THE OBJECTIVE REALITY OF A SITUATION...A CHANGE WHICH CANNOT BE INTRODUCED FROM THE OUTSIDE." ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN CONCEALING SYMPATHY OR REFUSING AID AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLES FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM AND INDEPEDENCE.

CLEARLY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS HAS A SPECIAL MEANING IN SOVIET POLICY. AND MASSIVE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA CAN BE PICTURED AS NERE SUPPORT OF A REVOLUTION AGAINST INTERFERENCE BY OTHERS.

THE SOVIET COMMENTATOR WOULD DO WELL TO REALIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ANGOLA ACTION FOR AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. WHEN SENATOR EDMUND MUSKIE RECENTLY WAS ASKED WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THE REMARKABLE CHANGE OF MOOD IN CONGRESS IN RELATION TO INCREASED DEFENSE REQUESTS BY THE ADMINISTRATION, HE POINTED TO THE SOVIET ACTION IN ANGOLA WHICH, HE SAID, CLEARLY CAUSED A SWING IN THE AMERICAN FEELING ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION. "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE GOT THE IDEA," HE ADDED, "THAT THE SOVIETS HAD TRIED THEIR HAND AT INTERVENTIONISM."

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